

## ***Program Purpose***

The State Work Study (SWS) program helps low- and middle-income students earn their way through college with part-time employment that can significantly reduce their debt burden.

- In 2009-10, about 8,900 SWS students from 55 institutions earned an average of about \$3,000 per year.
- More than 1,000 Washington employers currently employ SWS students.
- SWS students often work in jobs directly related to their academic or career interests.
- SWS funds provide employment experiences in areas as varied as dental hygiene, community service, and engineering.
- In 2010, the 2010-11 appropriation for SWS was reduced by 31.4% and is currently about \$16.1 million.
- The program anticipates leveraging more than \$7 million in additional student wages from participating employers this year.
- SWS is the only state funded, need-based student aid program that assists graduate and professional students.

### ***09-10 SWS Student Profile***

- † Nearly 68% reported incomes less than half the state's median family income, or about \$39,000 for a family of four.
- † 14% are graduate or professional students.
- † 39% older than 24 and 22% have children of their own.
- † 27% self reported as students of color.
- † 66% are female.
- † 36% attend community colleges.
- † 33% attend public four-year universities.
- † 31% attend private four-year universities.

## ***Effect of proposed cuts***

The Governor's 2011-13 biennial budget recommendation reduces the State Work Study program by \$21.3 million, or nearly 47% from anticipated carry forward biennial funding levels.

- The reduction from anticipated funding levels would result in an estimated 6,900 eligible students losing part-time work opportunities over the 2011-13 biennium.
- Employer matching funds would be lost to the state, bringing the total biennial reduction in student earnings to a projected \$31.5 million.
- The proposed 2011-12 appropriation represents a further 23% reduction from the current 2010-11 appropriation, which was reduced in the 2010 supplemental budget by 31.4%.
- SWS will undergo two consecutive years of significant funding reductions and policy changes, adversely impacting the number of participating employers and increasing challenges to multiple aspects of efficient program operations at institutions and the HECB.
- Compared to the current 2010-11 year appropriation level, the 2011-12 Governor's proposed SWS appropriation would translate into 1,800 fewer eligible students participating in 2011-12.
- On average, eligible students will lose about \$3,000 in annual earnings, or 15% of the average financial aid package for needy students.
- Many students would likely replace lost SWS income by taking out more loans. Others might not be able to continue in college at all.
- Many private companies, colleges, non-profit organizations, and the communities they serve will likely go without the valuable contributions of SWS student employees. Graduates will have less relevant work experience to highlight as they compete for scarce jobs.